

date of May 2, 1864, Mr. Allen says, "The Wild Turkey is now probably extinct in this State. Within a few years it has been said to occur wild on Mts. Tom and Holyoke, but I can find no authentic instances of its recent capture in this State. It is well known that the domestic turkey will sometimes take to the woods, assuming the habits of the wild bird. Hence these reports may well be received with considerable caution."

In Baird, Brewer, and Ridgway's 'Land Birds,' Vol. III, 1874, we find the following: "It has probably become an extinct species in New England, though within a few years, individuals have been shot in Montague, Mass., and in other towns in Franklin County."

We must consider, then, that the fate of this noble bird, not only in Massachusetts but in New England, has been decided for many years, and the same fate awaits it in all the other States, where it still lingers, unless means are early adopted to prevent its complete annihilation.—D. D. SLADE, *Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge, Mass.*

The European Kestrel in Massachusetts—A Correction.—In 'The Auk' for January last (Vol. V, p. 110), the locality of capture for the specimen of this species there recorded should read Strawberry Hill, Nantasket Beach, Mass., instead of "Nantucket," Mass.—CHARLES B. CORY, *Boston, Mass.*

First Occurrence of the Western Red-tail in Ontario.—I have obtained from M. J. Dodds, St. Thomas, Ont., a fine adult of the Western Red-tail (*Buteo borealis calurus*), which was killed near there in the fall of 1885, by John Oxford. This appears to be the first recorded occurrence of this species in Ontario. At the same time I procured from him an Ontario specimen of the Sandhill Crane, killed at Roudeau in 1869 by the same man, which is interesting from the probability that Ontarians have seen their last living examples of this species in the Province, and there are but very few native specimens in existence.—W. E. SAUNDERS, *London, Ont.*

Dichromatism in the Genus Nyctidromus.—During my examination of this group, Mr. J. A. Allen called my attention to a number of particularly red or rich cinnamon colored birds, among the twenty-seven specimens from Matto Grosso, Brazil, which belong to the American Museum of Natural History, and were collected by Mr. Herbert H. Smith.

Having before me a number of specimens from other localities belonging to the National Museum, the American Museum of Natural History (the Lawrence collection in particular), I also find this dichromatism, though to a less extent. Judging from the material at my command, it seems to be prevalent only about and south of the equator, although it may be looked for in a lesser degree in Mexico and Texas. These two phases—the red and gray—are analogous to those so well known to exist in our common Screech Owls of the genus *Megascops*. I find that in Matto Grosso, Brazil, one out of every three are in the red phase; in

Cayenne, Ecuador, and through the northern part of South America, about one in six are red; in Panama and Central America, about one in ten are red; while of the thirty or more examined from the region north of Central America, no definite red phase is perceptible.

So much has been written during the last hundred years upon the birds of this genus that it is possible these two phases of plumage have been noticed and recorded; but in looking over all the references made by English and American naturalists I fail to find any notice of its occurrence. I therefore give my observations for what they are worth, as aids to the interesting though but little understood subject of dichromatism among birds.—GEO. B. SENNETT, *Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., New York City.*

On the Further Occurrence of *Otocoris alpestris praticola* in Chester County, South Carolina.—That the advent of Prairie Horned Larks does not alone depend upon exceptional cold in this immediate region is manifest; for the past winter has been noteworthy for its clemency and for the presence of these birds in comparative abundance. December 3, the first specimens of the season were secured, but a small flock, presumably of the same subspecies, was seen a week earlier. From this time forward until the end of January they were met with continually, and a few were noted at intervals through February. The situation where my observations were chiefly conducted was a closely cropped pasture of about a dozen acres, sloping gently to the southward. Here, during the two months mentioned, I never failed in twenty visits to find one or more flocks. As I obtained, from the first, only *praticola*, I assiduously pressed my investigations, hoping definitely to settle for the present season, at least, the true status of the two forms of *Otocoris* reported as occurring in this section. During December I shot one hundred three females and sixteen males, all of which belonged to the western race. In January thirty females and ten males of like kind were procured. A larger number could have been taken, but I desisted from shooting others as soon as I became satisfied as to the real character of the individuals constituting a company. A feature of marked prominence was the preponderance of females. Only on one occasion (Jan. 10) did I capture an equal number of both sexes.

	Sex.	Length.		Extent.		Wing.		Tail.	
		in.	mm.	in.	mm.	in.	mm.	in.	mm.
Maximum	♂	7.40	187.96	13.30	337.82	4.18	106.17	3.14	79.75
Minimum	♂	6.95	176.53	12.60	320.04	3.93	99.82	2.75	69.85
Average	♂	7.14	181.36	13.03	330.96	4.05	102.87	2.99	75.94
Maximum	♀	6.85	173.99	12.60	320.04	3.93	99.82	2.88	73.15
Minimum	♀	6.40	162.56	11.80	299.72	3.62	91.95	2.45	62.23
Average	♀	6.66	169.16	12.23	310.64	3.77	95.75	2.69	68.32